

Amendments to the Claims:

The full listing of claims provided below will replace any and all prior versions of all claims presently pending in this application:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

1 7. (currently amended) A debris gathering and pickup tool,
2 comprising:

3 a) a gathering portion, including

4 i) a flattened gathering head;

5 ii) an elongated handle having an outer diameter; and

6 iii) a coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
7 gathering head to the elongated handle, the coupling
8 arrangement effecting the coupling such that the gathering head
9 is attached to the elongated handle at a pre-selected and fixed
10 downward angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the
11 elongated handle; and

12 b) a grasping portion which is separable from the gathering
13 portion, the grasping portion including

14 i) a flattened grasping member; and

15 ii) a user operated grasping sleeve, which is structured
16 with the grasping member portion fixedly coupled ~~fixed thereto~~
17 to the grasping sleeve at an angle substantially equal to or
18 ~~less than~~ the downward angle established between the gathering
19 head and the longitudinal axis of the elongated handle;

20 iii) with the grasping sleeve structured having an internal
21 diameter selected to co-axially accept the elongated handle
22 therein for establishing a slidable coupling between the
23 gathering portion and the grasping portion;

24 c) wherein the slidable coupling of the grasping portion is
25 further structured for being slidably coupleable, by the user,
26 to the elongated handle of the gathering portion is such that
27 the grasping portion may be selectively slidably moved by the
28 user to a selected position along the elongated handle between
29 a first retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may
30 be employed for gathering debris and forming ~~the~~ bunches, and a
31 second ~~distal~~ grasping position wherein debris may be grasped
32 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first
33 surface of the grasping member, enabling a lifting and
34 subsequent disposal of gathered debris.

35
1 8. (currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 7, wherein the downward angle established
3 between each of the gathering head and the elongated handle, as

4 well as the grasping member and the grasping sleeve, is
5 substantially in the range of 15 to 60 degrees.

6

1 9. (currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 8, wherein each the downward angle is
3 substantially 30 degrees.

4

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

1 14. (currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 7, wherein the grasping portion is
3 ~~slidably fixed to the elongated handle portion and the coupling~~
4 ~~between the grasping member and the grasping sleeve is~~
5 ~~structured such that the grasping member can be detached from~~
6 ~~the grasping sleeve when not needed for grasping and picking up~~
7 ~~debris detachable from the gathering portion by the user~~
8 sliding the grasping sleeve, and thereby the grasping portion,
9 off of a first end of the elongated handle, thereby de-coupling
10 the gathering portion from the grasping portion.

11

1 15. (new) A debris gathering and pickup tool, structured with a
2 gathering portion which is separable from a grasping portion,
3 and arranged for gathering debris contained within a selected
4 area, and grasping and lifting the debris for subsequent
5 disposal, the debris gathering and pickup tool comprising:

- 6 a) a gathering portion, including
 - 7 i) a flattened gathering head;
 - 8 ii) an elongated handle; and
 - 9 iii) a first coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
 - 10 gathering head to the elongated handle so that the gathering
 - 11 head is fixedly attached to the elongated handle at a pre-
 - 12 selected and fixed downward angle with respect to a
 - 13 longitudinal axis of the elongated handle; and
- 14 b) a grasping portion, which is separable from the gathering
- 15 portion, the grasping portion including
 - 16 i) a flattened grasping member;
 - 17 ii) a user operated grasping sleeve; and
 - 18 iii) a second coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
 - 19 grasping member to the grasping sleeve such that the grasping
 - 20 member is coupled to the grasping sleeve at a pre-selected and
 - 21 fixed downward angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the
 - 22 grasping sleeve;
 - 23 iv) with the grasping portion arranged for being slidably
 - 24 coupled to the gathering portion, by the user, by inserting a

25 first end of the elongated handle, into and through a center
26 opening at a distal end of the grasping sleeve, causing the
27 elongated handle to be placed coaxially through a center
28 opening of the grasping sleeve of the grasping portion;
29 c) thereby establishing the slidable coupling between the
30 separable grasping portion and the gathering portion so that
31 the grasping portion may be moved by the user to a selected
32 position along a length of the elongated handle between a first
33 retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may be
34 employed for gathering debris and forming bunches of debris,
35 and a second grasping position wherein debris may be grasped
36 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first
37 surface of the grasping member, enabling a lifting of the
38 gathered debris for subsequent disposal.

39

1 16. (new) The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance
2 with claim 15, wherein the downward angles established between
3 the gathering head and the elongated handle, as well as the
4 grasping member and the grasping sleeve, are equal and
5 substantially in the range of 15 to 60 degrees.

6

1 17. (new) The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance
2 with claim 16, wherein the downward angles are each
3 substantially 30 degrees.